




The largest dam removal in United States history began September 2011. Today, Elwha Dam is gone, over fifty percent of Glines Canyon Dam has been removed, the Lake Mills and Lake Aldwell reservoirs have drained and the Elwha River flows freely from its headwaters in the Olympic Mountains to the Strait of Juan de Fuca for the first time in 100 years. As the dams come down, the salmon can return, bringing with them the promise of a restored ecosystem and a renewed culture. Opportunities to experience Elwha River Restoration await your discovery.



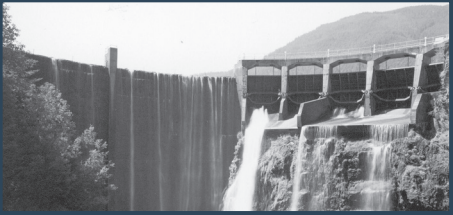
Elwha River Restoration Timeline

» 1910



Elwha Dam construction begins. The 108 ft. high dam becomes operational in 1913, but does not provide for fish passage.

» 1925



Glines Canyon Dam construction begins. The 210 ft. dam is operational in 1927.

» 1938

Olympic National Park is established.

» 1992

Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act is signed.

» 2000

Dams, power plants, and reservoirs purchased by the U.S. government.

» 2011

Dam removal begins.

» March 2012



Elwha Dam removal is completed and natural river flow is restored through former Lake Aldwell.

» October 2012

Although a third of Glines Canyon Dam remains, the last of Lake Mills is drained and river flow is restored in the Elwha.

» February 2013

Dam removal put on hold while corrections to Elwha Water Facilities begin.

» September 2014

Dam removal is scheduled for completion.

Freeing a River

Replenishing a Coast
Natural sediment flow from the mountains to the coast is being restored, rebuilding wetlands, beaches and the estuary at the river’s mouth.

Creating Economic Opportunities
Just as the dams played a vital role in the history and development of the area, removing them and restoring the ecosystem is creating new opportunities for growth and regional vitality.

Renewing a Culture
Returning salmon and a restored river have revitalized the culture of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who have lived along the river since time immemorial. Tribal members are now able to access sacred sites that were once inundated and cultural traditions are being reborn.


Restoring an Ecosystem
The return of anadromous fish is bringing back a vital food source for bears, eagles and other animals to an ecosystem that has been deprived of this resource for 100 years.

Reestablishing a Population
Dam removal is freeing the Elwha River, allowing all five species of Pacific salmon to return to over 70 miles of habitat. Salmon populations will grow from 3,000 to nearly 400,000.

Restoration Milestones



Sediment trapped in the reservoirs is now moving downstream, replenishing the riverbed, estuary and coastal shoreline.



Over 2,000 pounds of native seeds have been planted in former Lake Mills and Lake Aldwell.



Over 67,000 seedlings have been planted to help restore native vegetation at the sites of the dams and reservoirs.



Salmon, steelhead and lamprey have begun to naturally migrate upstream of Elwha Dam for the first time in a 100 years.



Salmon have hatched upstream of the Elwha Dam and migrated downstream for the first time in a century.



Next 5 Years
350,000 native seedlings and 5,000 pounds of seeds will be planted at the sites of the dams and reservoirs.

Next 20-30 Years
Elwha River salmon populations will grow from 3,000 to nearly 400,000 fish. Critical habitats, including beaches, islands, and eddies will be created and renewed as sediment moves downstream from the old reservoirs.

Discover Elwha River Restoration



Former Lake Mills



Elwha River Viewpoint



Olympic NP Visitor Center



Former Lake Aldwell



Former Elwha Dam Access



Warrior Path



Feiro Marine Life Center



Museum at the Carnegie



Elwha River Bridge



Former Elwha Dam Access

1 Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Center
Just past the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Center is the 0.7 mile Warrior Path loop trail to the Elwha River estuary. *Lower Elwha Road*

4 Elwha River Bridge
Cross the Elwha River bridge to get a bird's-eye view of the river and connect to the Olympic Discovery Trail. *Elwha River Road*

7 Olympic Nat'l Park Visitor Center
View exhibits and ask a ranger about Elwha River Restoration updates. *3002 Mount Angeles Road*

2 Feiro Marine Life Center
Interact with Elwha exhibits that feature a hands-on model of Glines Canyon Dam and Lake Mills. *315 N. Lincoln Street on Port Angeles City Pier*

5 Former Elwha Dam View & Access
Stroll a short trail to an overlook or hike to the end of Lower Dam Road to view ecosystem restoration at the former site of the Elwha Dam. *Lower Dam Road*

8 Elwha River Viewpoint
Observe a changing landscape where the Elwha River flows through the site of the former Lake Aldwell reservoir. *Highway 101*

3 Museum at the Carnegie
Learn about the historic Elwha Valley, including Glines Canyon and Elwha dams, through informative exhibits. *207 S. Lincoln Street*

6 Former Lake Aldwell Access
Discover the newly uncovered Lake Aldwell reservoir. Hike along a reemerging landscape blooming with new life. *Lake Aldwell Road*

9 Former Lake Mills Access
Explore a dynamic and changing landscape. Hike down the 0.4 mile Upper Lake Mills Trail to the south end of the former reservoir. *Whiskey Bend Road*

Explore Safely

Use caution when exploring. Conditions change constantly. Woody debris and logs are actively moving in the river and on exposed lakebeds. Riverbanks are eroding and may be unstable. Stay at least 20 feet from the edge of riverbanks.

River & Area Closures

The Elwha River and its tributaries within Olympic National Park are closed to all fishing. Boating is prohibited from Upper Lake Mills Trail to Altair Campground.

The Glines Canyon Dam site and Olympic Hot Springs Road are closed above Altair Campground to vehicle and pedestrian traffic until dam removal is complete.

Collecting Prohibited

Collecting artifacts is illegal in the park and Elwha Project Lands.



Learn more about Elwha River Restoration <http://tinyurl.com/Elwha-Restoration>